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CONTACT REPORT

25 May 1961

BERNHARDT, SPLEMINO - ☐ ☐
☐ ☐ Some - 1515-1630 hours

1. CALLIKAK Coverage on HOFFMAN and CLEMENS - ☐ ☐ passed along the gist of the reservations contained in SSN 1197 concerning telephone coverage on CLEMENS. BERNHARDT said he thought the points made sense. After some discussion, BERNHARDT said that as far as he was concerned there really was no objection if we gave the British a fairly straight story and indicated that we were helping UPHILL out on a security investigation of CLEMENS and possibly UJECOWSY, since the British presumably would figure this out in any event, they could not accuse KUBARK of having deceived them about the real purpose of the exercise. BERNHARDT said it appeared that the real question now appeared to be whether or not the value of the CALLIKAK coverage would be enough to justify the complications involved in playing things straight with the British. He said he would think things over and have some decision by the next meeting. ☐ ☐ touched on the possibility of UPHILL discussing matters directly with the British. BERNHARDT's response was totally unenthusiastic and he made it clear that he preferred that KUBARK front for UPHILL - presumably because UPHILL is not interested in discussing staff security matters with the British. When asked where things stood on UPHILL's taking action through British or through GLOVE and SCHROEDER to get coverage on HOFFMAN, BERNHARDT said he doubted anything would be done by UPHILL - certainly nothing that would involve HOFFMAN. BERNHARDT said he was convinced that no matter what favors UPHILL had with CAVATA in discussing the possibility of coverage, it would not be possible for CAVATA to hold the information as closely as UPHILL would like. BERNHARDT said UPHILL had had a number of bad past experiences in discussing sensitive cases with CAVATA, requesting that the information be most tightly held, and discovering shortly thereafter that most of the old hands in the CAVATA hierarchy including RULIAN, etc., had been out in.

2. UJECOWSY - The following points were discussed:

A. BERNHARDT said that UJECOWSY had had to turn in his old license plates when he got his new Taunus 17-M. His new license number is H-PA-466. (Comment: Passed to Chief, MCG.)

B. ☐ ☐ asked if BERNHARDT knew UJECOWSY's weekend plans and said that we expected to do some further casing in the area of his country home over the weekend. BERNHARDT said he was relatively sure that UJECOWSY planned to spend the weekend in Oberndorf.

C. BERNHARDT said UJECOWSY was planning to take two weeks of annual leave starting 3 June. When asked where he would be, BERNHARDT said to the best of his knowledge UJECOWSY was taking his son to Hamburg to enter "Seemannschule" and presumably would stay around to see to it that he got properly settled. BERNHARDT said that he should be getting UJECOWSY's official leave request in the next few days and that this request should contain his detailed planned itinerary and where he could be reached during his absence.

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4. Friedrich FRANK - The following points were discussed:

A. FLEMING gave an oral run down on FRANK's background. This time he made no bones about the fact that FRANK was an UPHILL staffer. FLEMING said FRANK had been recruited on UDROWSKY's recommendation in 1953.

B. FLEMING said that UPHILL's investigation now indicated that FRANK had a fairly unenviable Nazi and SD past. FLEMING elaborated somewhat on his earlier comments on the subject of present Dutch interest in locating FRANK and noted that it was not certain if the Dutch had had any luck in pinning down his present whereabouts.

C. At the end of the war FRANK had managed to stay out of trouble by going under two different assumed names. He left Holland at the end of the war documented as a German naval officer. He was able to do this with the assistance of the German Navy commanding officer in Holland who was a close friend. In the late 1940's he assumed another false identity, for reasons still not entirely clear to UPHILL. He stuck with this second false identity until circa 1951 when he returned to his true identity after making a "Selbstanklage" to the effect that he had been registered and living under a false name. Apparently, by 1951 he felt that the heat was off sufficiently so that he could return to his true identity without getting into a jam.

D. [] said we did not as yet have telephone coverage on FRANK because he apparently had an unlisted number we had not as yet been able to pinpoint. (Comment: In the above discussion, [] thought it better not to raise the ticklish question of how UPHILL could have recruited anyone with a background quite as murky as FRANK's seems to be.)

4. Frederickia Breeden - [] said that the local CHICKEN types were overloaded with work, found the coverage of the Frederickia particularly time-consuming, and wondered if it might be possible to cut back on the amount of material transcribed. After discussion, FLEMING volunteered to take tapes only, on a trial basis, in the hope that he would be able to find the time to listen to these evenings at home.

5. GREGOR - [] raised the question of the information/Pt. KINZE's notes to the effect that [] had named GREGOR as a Polish spy and later hedged to say that he only was certain that GREGOR had been in "Berlitzburg". For details see ENR-51063, 11 May - tel-type.

6. Defection Publicity - BERNHARDT raised this question and said that UPHILL had received a query from Bonn very shortly after the story broke. BERNHARDT said he had answered the Bonn query by saying that to the best of UPHILL's knowledge the story was not true, because UPHILL had evidence that the Polish Intel chief was still in evidence in Warsaw. BERNHARDT noted that since all of the stories in the German press described the defector as the "Chief" he had been able to answer Bonn as he had with a clear conscience. BERNHARDT asked how UPHILL should handle any further queries and [] said by claiming no knowledge. [] also mentioned that our Headquarters felt it possible that the Soviets deliberately had leaked the story in an attempt to snow out the present whereabouts of [] [] also mentioned that some of the press accounts had speculated that there had been some connection between the defection and the BLAKE case and wondered what might come out in the British press on this possibility.

(Comment: Nothing.)